



[SEARCH](#)

[FAQ](#)

[SITEMAP](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

[NICOR INC. HOME](#)

## News Releases

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 30, 2000

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Contact: Nicor Gas, 630 983-8676  
Lee Haines, ext. 2604  
Jane Wiedmeyer, ext. 2844

### NICOR GAS ANNOUNCES TWO-PHASED PLAN TO INSPECT UP TO 200,000 HOMES

Naperville, Ill. - In a press briefing today, Tom Fisher, chairman, president and CEO of Nicor, announced details of the company's two-phased plan to inspect up to 200,000 homes in its service territory that may be affected by the mercury used in old-style regulators.

Phase 1 will include a visual inspection of homes identified as being part of Nicor's expanded investigation. During the visual inspection, Nicor crews will determine whether an old-style regulator was previously or still is located inside the home. If not, the home will not require further inspection. In homes which have ever had an old-style regulator inside, crews will look for visible signs of mercury. If visible traces of mercury are detected, clean-up crews will be scheduled for follow up. The company's goal will be to have clean-up work begun within two days. Phase 1 visual inspections will begin tomorrow.

Phase 2 will require a visit to all homes that need more detailed investigation using screening equipment - chiefly, those that had an old-style regulator removed from inside the home but in which there was no mercury visible, and those that still have old-style mercury regulators. Priority inspection will be given to the approximately 15,000 customers whose regulators were exchanged within the past five years. Phase 2 will begin no later than September 11.

"This two-phased plan provides both the structure we need to get the job done quickly and the flexibility to make adjustments along the way," said Fisher.

"We are confident that this is the right plan to move forward with and we are confident in our ability to execute it



#### What's New

[Customer Select  
Pilot Program](#)

[We Are  
Nicor Gas](#)

[Natural Gas  
For Your  
Home](#)

[Natural Gas  
For Your  
Business](#)

[Nicor Gas Rates](#)

[Natural  
Gas Safety](#)

[Bill Payment  
Options](#)

[Energy  
Spotlight](#)

[Gas Exchange](#)

efficiently and effectively."

Nicor presented, and received support for, the two-phased approach in an Attorney General's task force meeting on Tuesday.

To execute this plan, Nicor is mobilizing the appropriate staff and acquiring additional screening equipment. Mercury vapor meters, the standard equipment for mercury screening, have been located and are scheduled to be delivered to Nicor beginning early next week. Nicor expects to have as many as 150 inspection and clean-up crews available, if needed. Inspection crews will work six days a week, on 10-hour shifts. Nicor inspection and screening crews will be dressed in identifiable clothing and will display appropriate identification before entering customers' homes.

The criteria customers in the Nicor service territory can use to determine that their homes are not affected are:

- Homes built after 1961
- Homes that have an old-style regulator outside
- Homes in Nicor's low-pressure distribution system

"We are committed to doing the right thing, at the right pace and in the right way. We intend to give our customers the peace of mind they deserve," said Fisher.

More information is available on our web site at [www.nicor.com](http://www.nicor.com) or by calling Nicor's special toll-free number, 1-888-288-8110.

Nicor (NYSE: GAS) is a holding company. Its principal businesses are Nicor Gas, a gas distribution company serving more than 1.9 million customers in a service territory that encompasses most of the northern third of Illinois, excluding the city of Chicago, and Tropical Shipping, a containerized shipping business which operates between Florida and the Caribbean. Nicor also owns several energy-related subsidiaries and is a partner in Nicor Energy, a provider of unregulated energy products and services.

- [News Releases](#)

---

[What's New](#) | [Customer Select Pilot Program](#) | [We Are Nicor Gas](#) | [Natural Gas For Your Home](#) | [Natural Gas For Your Business](#)  
[Nicor Gas Rates](#) | [Natural Gas Safety](#) | [Bill Payment Options](#) | [Consumer News](#) | [Gas Exchange](#) | [Contact Us](#) |  
[Nicor Home](#)

© 1998, Nicor Inc.